

Decision No. C14-0776-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14M-0235E

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF RETAIL RENEWABLE
DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND NET METERING.

**INTERIM DECISION ADDRESSING
JULY 24 PANEL DISCUSSION**

Mailed Date: July 8, 2014
Adopted Date: July 2, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By Decision No. C14-0615-I, issued June 9, 2014, the Commission concluded that it should gather additional information on topics related to retail renewable distributed generation and net metering through a series of panel discussions. The first panel discussion, intended to address the present and expected impacts of net metering on Colorado utilities and their customers, is scheduled for July 24, 2014 at the Commission's offices.

2. The Commission discussed the July 24 Panel Discussion at the Commissioners' Weekly Meeting on July 2, 2014. Based upon this discussion, we set forth specific questions to be addressed by the panelists in Attachment A to this Decision.

B. Discussion

3. The July 24 Panel Discussion should include presentations about the existing and projected penetration of distributed solar generation in Colorado. We are particularly interested in the projected growth of residential on-site solar as distinct from the growth of solar in the medium and large program categories. We also seek more details about the average size and

number of systems that are installed and the ongoing ratepayer obligations, including costs for net metering, associated with the installation of residential on-site solar.

4. While the question of whether or not net metering results in an overall cost or benefit to utility customers is at issue in this proceeding, for this first panel, we seek detailed information about the cost of net metering to residential customers (net metered and non-net metered) and how those costs are calculated.¹ We also seek from the panelists some quantification of the present and future financial impacts of on-site solar and net metering on Colorado utilities. Further, we want to understand how changes in the existing incentives (such as the Investment Tax Credit) may affect the rate at which residential on-site solar reaches grid parity in Colorado.

5. As established by Decision No. C14-0615-I, the panel will likely have four to six participants, including at least one panelist representing the electric utilities and at least one panelist representing the local on-site solar industry. In addition, we invite one or more panelists from the rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric providers interested in responding to questions in Attachment A. Interested persons seeking to serve as a panelist shall file a request to participate on the panel no later than July 14, 2014 as described in Decision No. C14-0615-I. The Commission will publish the list of panelists after that date.

6. In addition, we find that the filing of written responses to the questions in Attachment A will result in a more effective exchange among the panelists and the commissioners. Panelists are directed to file written responses to the questions no later than July 21, 2014.

¹ The second panel will focus primarily on quantifying the benefits of net metered residential solar on utility distribution systems.

II. ORDER**A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. Consistent with the discussion above, interested persons seeking to participate in the July 24 Panel Discussion scheduled by Decision No. C14-0615-I shall be prepared to address the questions set forth in Attachment A to this Decision.

2. Panelists shall submit written answers to the questions set forth in Attachment A no later than July 21, 2014.

3. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
July 2, 2014.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners